

1 ^{sub a1} 1. A method for accessing a video stream
 2 comprising:
 3 when a first application requests video,
 4 initializing a video stream using a video server; and
 5 if the first application crashes, maintaining
 6 access to the video stream for a second application
 7 through the video server.

1 2. The method of claim 1 including detecting
 2 when the first application crashes.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein detecting when
 2 the first application crashes includes detecting when
 3 the first application crashes by monitoring an
 4 exception handler.

1 4. The method of claim 1 including shutting down
 2 the video stack when a crash is detected.

1 5. The method of claim 1 including shutting down
 2 a television capture card when a crash is detected.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein maintaining
 2 access to the video stream includes operating said
 3 video stream in a separate address space from the first
 4 application.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein when a crash is
2 detected, directing the server to release the video
3 stack.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein maintaining
2 access to the video stream includes using software in
3 the second application for accessing said server and
4 software in said server for accessing the video stack.

1 9. A method for accessing a television video
2 stream comprising:
3 connecting an application needing video
4 services to a television server using a window which
5 operates in a separate address space from the
6 application;
7 monitoring to determine if the application
8 crashes while receiving the video stream; and
9 when the application crashes, automatically
10 shutting down a video stack and a video capture card.

1 10. The method of claim 9 including detecting
2 when the application crashes by monitoring an exception
3 handler.

1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein when a crash is
2 detected, directing the television server to release
3 the video stack.

1 12. The method of claim 9 including operating a
2 first window in the application for accessing the

3 television server and a second window in said server
4 for accessing the video stack.

1 ~~Sub 27~~ 13. An article comprising a medium for storing
2 instructions for causing a computer to:
3 when a first application requests video,
4 initialize a video stream using a video server; and
5 if the first application crashes, maintain
6 access to the video stream for a second application
7 through the video server.

1 14. The article of claim 13 including
2 instructions for causing the computer to detect when
3 the first application crashes.

1 15. The article of claim 14 further including
2 instructions for causing the computer to detect when
3 the first application crashes by monitoring an
4 exception handler.

1 16. The article of claim 13 including
2 instructions for causing the computer to shut down a
3 video stack when a crash is detected.

1 17. The article of claim 13 including
2 instructions for causing the computer to shut down a
3 television capture card when a crash is detected.

1 18. The article of claim 13 including
2 instructions for causing the computer to operate said

3 video stream in a separate address space from the
4 application.

1 19. The article of claim 13 including
2 instructions for causing the computer to direct the
3 television server to release a video stack when a crash
4 is detected.

1 20. The article of claim 13 including
2 instructions for causing the computer to operate a
3 first window in the application for accessing the
4 television server and a second window in said server
5 for accessing a video stack.

1 21. An article comprising a medium for storing
2 instructions for causing a computer to:
3 connect an application needing video services
4 to a television server using a window which operated in
5 a separate address space from the application;
6 monitor to determine if the application
7 crashes while receiving a video stream; and
8 when the application crashes, automatically
9 shut down a video stack and a video capture card.

1 22. The article of claim 21 including
2 instructions for causing the computer to detect when
3 the application crashes by monitoring an exception
4 handler.

1 23. The article of claim 21 including
2 instructions for causing the computer to direct the
3 television server to release the video stack when a
4 crash is detected.

1 24. The article of claim 21 including
2 instructions for causing the computer to operate a
3 first window in the application for accessing the
4 server and a second window in said server for accessing
5 the video stream.

25. A computer system comprising:
a processor;
a television tuner card coupled to a
processor;
a memory coupled to said processor storing
programs which cause a computer to:
connect an application needing video service
to a television server using a window which operates in
a separate address space from the application;
monitor to determine if the application
crashes while receiving the video stream; and
when the application crashes, automatically
shut down a video stack and the video capture card.

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